

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An agitating retort (118) includes a drum (122) designed to fit closely within an outer shell (120) for rotation of the drum within the shell. The drum is perforated to permit water and/or steam to circulate through the drum during the retorting process. A plurality of interior transverse plates (130) are spaced apart along the interior of the drum to provide structural integrity thereto. The central portions of the plates (130) are open for receiving baskets (134) therein which receive containers of the foodstuffs or other products to be processed within the retort.